UNITED NATIONS

DP

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1994/3
29 April 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Second regular session
10-13 May 1994, New York
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

COUNTRY PROGRAMMES, MID-TERM REVIEWS AND RELATED MATTERS

Progress and results of UNDP efforts in Somalia

Report of the Administrator

I. PURPOSE

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of Governing Council decision 94/4 of 8 February 1994.

II. INTRODUCTION

2. Given the absence of a national government in Somalia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has followed a two-pronged approach: (a) focusing on the regions to support community-based, small-scale programmes, emphasizing capacity-building and human development and (b) working closely with the humanitarian programme of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) to support reconstruction and rehabilitation coordination efforts and to develop a medium-term rehabilitation plan for Somalia with the World Bank.

A. Community-based programmes

3. Through strategically placed Project Implementation Offices (PIOs), the Somalia Rehabilitation Programme (SOM/92/001) assists selected communities in articulating their rehabilitation and development needs and priorities as well as in formulating and implementing integrated sub-projects. The sub-projects aim at rebuilding infrastructure, rehabilitating health, sanitation and education facilities, and increasing the capacity of local authorities to manage the development process and collect revenue.

4. Programme activities started in northern Somalia in December 1992 and since then PIOs have been established in Boroma (with a sub-office in Gabiley), Buaro and Sosasso. In southern Somalia, activities started in early 1993 with a contribution of $800,000 made to the non-governmental organization (NGO) Save the Children for agricultural rehabilitation and sanitation in the Lower Shabelle region. With co-financing from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and UNDP component restored irrigation of 21,000 hectares of good quality agricultural land.

5. In early 1994, a PIO opened in Baidoa in the Central Region. A coordination unit also opened in Mogadishu. Further PIOs will open during 1994 in the Central Region and in Gedo. Currently, more than 90 sub-projects, totalling approximately $7.6 million, are under implementation by the PIOs operating in close coordination with other bilaterally supported projects.

6. The fisheries infrastructure in Somalia has been destroyed as a result of strife. While major capital investment will be required to redevelop the fishing industry, UNDP has committed itself, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to providing assistance to selected fishing cooperatives, emphasizing capacity-building for income-generation.

B. Demobilization

7. As a result of preliminary studies done in 1993, a Zimbabwean team of experts was fielded in December 1993 to strengthen the demobilization and reintegration planning capacities of local communities in the North-West. UNDP is also exploring, in consultation with UNOSOM, possibilities for developing a similar programme for the North-East Region. Considerable donor resources will be required for the full demobilization programme.

C. Planning and coordination

8. A project was approved in February 1993 to prepare the Medium-term Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Plan for Somalia (SOM/93/001). UNDP has been working very closely with other United Nations specialized agencies, with the UNOSOM Humanitarian Division and with the World Bank, in the informal donor meetings held during 1993 as well as in a multidonor task force.

9. In response to a demand from the Somalia Aid-Coordinating Body constituted by the donor community, the Secretary-General requested UNDP in March 1994 to take over responsibility for the United Nations Development Office. The Development Office will continue to evolve as an embryonic planning and coordination entity for Somalia in order to become part of the future government administration; it will exist initially as a UNDP-funded project.

D. Restoration of services

10. In 1990, a project (SOM/90/023 - Emergency Assistance to Displaced Persons and Refugees) was designed for rapid sectoral response to urgent humanitarian needs, mostly through cost-sharing by interested donors. A United States Government grant of $1,392,552 provided air transport services through the project to NGOs and United Nations specialized agencies until April 1993.

11. A separate project component supports city-wide water supply in Mogadishu. Safe water now reaches more than half the city's population, major hospitals and feeding centres, and most UNOSOM military and civilian installations. In addition, successful city-wide garbage collection efforts undertaken by local NGOs in the first half of 1993 with USAID financial support, are now continuing through food-for-work schemes organized by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE).

12. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been executing, since April 1993, a project (SOM/93/002 - Rehabilitation of Civil Aviation Services) that aims at re-establishing minimum standards for safe civil aviation. A new flight-information centre opened in early 1994 and a new permanent control tower was installed with UNOSOM assistance. While Mogadishu airport remains under UNOSOM management, handing over control of Mogadishu airport to Somali management is the ultimate objective.

13. A UNDP project (SOM/93/003 - Rehabilitation of Somali Ports Management), executed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), aims to build management capacities of Somalis. With WFP funding, a contractor for port operations was fielded in November 1993. Currently, non-UNOSOM commercial traffic is steadily rising as the economy starts recovering; national staff are being retrained to assume responsibility; private sector services are being re-established; and a new fee structure is providing a basis for sustainability.

14. Since early 1994, a second team has been operating Kismayo Port in the south. The review of the needs of other ports for facilities rehabilitation and equipment replacement is under way. A central unit for ports has opened within UNOSOM as a nucleus for future ports and the transport ministry. A programme document emphasizing the investment and technical cooperation needs of the four major ports of Somalia will soon be submitted to donors.

E. Urban settlements and management

15. The initial phase of the Urban Settlements and Management Programme (SOM/94/003), to be executed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat), was approved in April 1994 with a budget of $590,000. The programme emphasizes participatory approaches and capacity-building of local authorities as well as the physical reconstruction of shelter and public facilities in selected urban areas throughout Somalia.

16. The first-phase project will provide assistance to the municipality of Hargeisa, based on the report of a joint Habitat/UNDP mission to Hargeisa in

September 1993. The programme also provides for a number of situation analysis/needs assessment missions to other key urban areas of Somalia, including Mogadishu, when the situation permits.

17. While UNDP funds will be utilized primarily for capacity-building, additional donor funding will be sought for the Hargeisa and, eventually, for the Mogadishu programmes.

F. Programmes planned for the future

18. The expansion of the UNDP programme will take into account the criteria established at the Fourth Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia, whereby security, maintenance of law and order, and the creation of representative and accountable institutional structures are essential for rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. In addition, it is planned to launch a national volunteer programme involving about 500 Somali professionals and specialists under UNDP auspices.

G. Financial status

19. The indicative planning figure (IPF) for Somalia for the fifth programming cycle is $59.98 million, of which only 70 per cent, or $41.99 million, is available for programming. In addition, $5.53 million has been carried over from the fourth cycle. Thus, total fifth cycle programmable resources are $47.52 million.

III. EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION

20. The Executive Board may wish to

Take note of the present report.